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DRAFTED BY: IO/PHO:ASKANNE:ASK

APPROVED BY: IO:DJBENNET

IO:GFWARD, JR.

DRL:JBURT-LYNN

IO/PHO:RLOFTIS

IO/UNP:GSTANTON

PRM:CSYKES

AF/C:KAISTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, UN, RW, PREF

SUBJECT: BIZIMUNGU MEETING WITH BENNET, SHATTUCK, SYKES

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST FOR GENEVA
- SEE PARA 20.

2. SUMMARY. RWANDAN PRESIDENT PASTEUR BIZIMUNGU AND HIS
DELEGATION MET WITH IO A/S DOUGLAS BENNET, DRL A/S JOHN
SHATTUCK AND PRM ACTING A/S CHARLES SYKES ON OCTOBER 5 TO
DISCUSS UN INITIATIVES IN RWANDA. BIZIMUNGU STATED THAT
THE GOR IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AND IS
ANXIOUS TO SEE THE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL OPERATIONAL. THE

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MINISTER OF JUSTICE NOTED THAT 6,000 RWANDANS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN RWANDA ON GENOCIDE-RELATED CHARGES AND AWAIT TRIAL. THE GOR NEEDS ASSISTANCE IN RESUSCITATING ITS NATIONAL COURT SYSTEM. THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS URGED THE U.S. TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SRSG KHAN CONCERNING SECURITY IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS OUTSIDE RWANDA. PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU, ALTHOUGH GRATEFUL FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, VOICED COMPLAINTS ABOUT UNHCR'S ACTIVITIES IN THE CAMPS WHICH HE BELIEVES ARE NOT ENCOURAGING REPATRIATION. BENNET, SHATTUCK AND SYKES EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE GOR'S COOPERATION WITH THE UN, ESPECIALLY IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, AND PROMISED TO REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN RWANDA. END SUMMARY.

3. RWANDAN PRESIDENT PASTEUR BIZIMUNGU, ACCOMPANIED BY
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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NDAGIJIMANA, MINISTER OF JUSTICE NKUBITO, CABINET DIRECTOR GASANA, ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT MURIGANDE AND RWANDAN EMBASSY CHARGE JOSEPH MUTABOBA, HAD A FULL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON EN ROUTE TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK (SEPTELS). BIZIMUNGU ET AL MET FOR 30 MINUTES WITH IO A/S DOUGLAS BENNET, DRL A/S JOHN SHATTUCK, PRM AND ACTING A/S CHARLES SYKES. ALSO ATTENDING WERE IO PDAS GEORGE WARD, IO SPECIAL ASSISTANT BILL WHITE, IO/UNP OFFICER FOR AFRICA GREG STANTON, DRL OFFICER JANE BURT-LYNN, AF/C RWANDA DESK OFFICER KEVIN AISTON, AND IO/PHO UNAMIR OFFICER APRIL KANNE (NOTETAKER).

4. A/S BENNET OPENED THE MEETING BY ENCOURAGING CONTINUED GOR COOPERATION WITH THE UN TO CONFRONT THE HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL ISSUES FACING THE NATION. BENNET TOLD THE RWANDAN DELEGATION THAT THE USG IS FOLLOWING CLOSELY INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY RPA SOLDIERS. BENNET EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL ON RWANDA WOULD PASS THIS WEEK.

5. PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY THE UNHCR REPORT ALLEGING GOR COMPLICITY IN RETRIBUTION KILLINGS. BIZIMUNGU SAID THAT UPON HEARING OF THE REPORT HE MOVED IMMEDIATELY TO ESTABLISH A MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WHICH INVESTIGATED THE CHARGES, AND FOUND ALL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE GOR UNFOUNDED. HE ASKED THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGATIONS AND THE GOR IS COOPERATING IN THIS

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ENDEAVOR. BIZIMUNGU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN
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ISOLATED INCIDENTS, BUT ASSURED DEPARTMENT INTERLOCUTORS THAT THOSE INVOLVED WERE ARRESTED. THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THAT THESE INDIVIDUAL ACTS WERE ONLY TO BE EXPECTED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE EXTREME TRAGEDY THAT THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA HAD SUFFERED, REFERRING TO THE GENOCIDE OF EARLIER THIS YEAR.

6. BIZIMUNGU STATED THAT THE GOR IS COMMITTED TO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HE HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO TEACH HUMAN RIGHTS VALUES, A PRACTICE NOT FOLLOWED BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA.

7. BIZIMUNGU MADE THE POINT THAT WHILE THE INVESTIGATION

INSIDE RWANDA GOES ON, THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL THAT CAN EFFECTIVELY PURSUE THOSE ACCUSED OF GENOCIDAL CRIMES HAS YET TO BE ESTABLISHED. HE OPINED THAT THE DELAYS ALLOW MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT GOR INTEGRITY TO FLOURISH, WHILE THOSE ACCUSED OF GENOCIDE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY BELIEVE THEY HAVE ESCAPED JUSTICE.

8. MINISTER OF JUSTICE NKUBITO NOTED THAT THE GOR MOVED QUICKLY TO ACCEPT ALL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE STATED THAT ALREADY SOME 6,000 PEOPLE IN RWANDA HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED FOLLOWING ACCUSATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT IN ACTS OF GENOCIDE. THE ARRESTS WERE AS MUCH FOR THE PROTECTION OF THOSE ACCUSED, AND THE GOVERNMENT MADE PLEAS THAT THE POPULATION REFRAIN FROM VENGEANCE. THE MINISTER IS SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CARE AND FEEDING OF THOSE ARRESTED. A/S SHATTUCK ASKED IF MANY OF THOSE

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ARRESTS HAD OCCURRED RECENTLY, SINCE THE FIGURE WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN WHEN HE WAS IN RWANDA IN AUGUST. MINISTER NKUBITO CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE AND INDICATED THAT THESE ARRESTS ARE CONTINUING AS THE ACCUSED ARE IDENTIFIED. NOTING THAT THE SHORTAGE OF RESOURCES IN RWANDA IS MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO FEED AND CARE FOR THE PRISONERS, NKUBITO AGAIN STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE PROMPT ESTABLISHMENT OF A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL.

9. IN RESPONSE TO A/S BENNET'S QUESTION OF WHETHER ALL

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6,000 WERE TO BE TRIED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE SAID THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL SHOULD TRY AS MANY CASES AS POSSIBLE, BUT THAT THE TRIBUNAL'S PRIORITY SHOULD BE THOSE ARRESTED OUTSIDE OF RWANDA. DETAINEES IN RWANDA MAY BE TRIED BY THE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL, BUT MOST WILL LIKELY PROCEED THROUGH THE INTERNAL RWANDAN SYSTEM OF JUSTICE. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THE RWANDAN JUSTICE SYSTEM IS IN NEED OF MUCH SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

10. A/S SHATTUCK TOLD THE RWANDAN DELEGATION THAT HE HAD MET IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK WITH POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF A "FRIENDS OF RWANDA" DONOR COORDINATION GROUP, AND HAD DISCUSSED PRECISELY THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE RWANDAN JUSTICE SYSTEM. SHATTUCK EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO COORDINATE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO ASSIST IN REBUILDING THIS SYSTEM.

11. A/S BENNET ASKED PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU ABOUT THE NEXT STEPS FOR UNAMIR. BENNET STATED THAT HE BELIEVES FULL DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR THROUGHOUT RWANDA WILL CONTRIBUTE TO
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THE SECURITY AND TRANSPARENCY SOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA. THE PRESIDENT AGREED, SAYING THAT HE EXPECTS FULL DEPLOYMENT OF 5,500 TROOPS SOON, WHEN THE INDIAN CONTINGENT AND OTHERS ARRIVE IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. BIZIMUNGU NOTED THAT IN THE PAST THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH TROOPS IN COUNTRY TO COVER ADEQUATELY THE NATION, BUT NOW THE TROOPS ARE ABLE TO DEPLOY EVERYWHERE, AND COLLABORATE WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

12. BIZIMUNGU EXPLAINED THAT THE MASSACRES ATTEMPTED TO TEAR APART THE RWANDAN POPULATION. NOW, HE CONTINUED, "WE MUST TEACH THE PEOPLE TO LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN." BIZIMUNGU SAID THAT INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE WILL HELP IN THIS GOAL, AND THAT UNAMIR HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.

13. BENNET ASKED BIZIMUNGU FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF A POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF UNAMIR TO INCLUDE REFUGEE CAMPS OUTSIDE OF RWANDA. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT UNAMIR IS ALREADY INVOLVED AT THE BORDERS IN RETURNING REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES, AND UNHCR IS ACTIVE IN THE CAMPS. (COMMENT: DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT UNHCR, IOM AND A VARIETY OF NGOS ARE INVOLVED IN REFUGEE RECEPTION AND ONWARD TRANSPORT. UNAMIR FORCES IN THE SOUTHWEST INITIATED OPERATION HOMEWARD TO MOVE INTERNALLY DISPLACED

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TO KEY DESTINATIONS IN RWANDA, BUT THIS HAS BEEN PUT ON
HOLD DUE TO A LACK OF "CUSTOMERS." END COMMENT.)
BIZIMUNGU SAID HE BELIEVES A UN PRESENCE IN THE CAMPS
WHICH COULD TALK DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE AND EXPLAIN THAT
IT IS SAFE TO RETURN MIGHT OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES
PRESENTED BY THE EX-FAR AND MILITIA, WHO ARE ACTIVELY
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DISSUADING REFUGEES FROM RETURNING.

14. FOREIGN MINISTER NDAGIJIMANA NOTED THAT THE UN
SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE KHAN IS IN
FAVOR OF A UN EXPANSION INTO ZAIRE AND TANZANIA. THE
FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ZAIRE HAD REQUESTED
INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AS IT DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO
RESOLVE CAMP SECURITY ISSUES. NDAGIJIMANA URGED THE USG
TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SGSR WHEN HIS REPORT IS
FINALIZED. A/S BENNET EXPLAINED THAT THE USG IS CURRENTLY
REVIEWING THE CAMP SECURITY QUESTION AND WE ARE WAITING
FOR THE SGSR TEAM'S REPORT WHICH IS EXPECTED ON OCTOBER 10
OR 11.

15. A/S SHATTUCK RAISED THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
MONITORS. SHATTUCK NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME
DELAYS IN GETTING MONITORS ON THE GROUND, THERE ARE
PRESENTLY 24 MONITORS IN PLACE IN RWANDA UNDER THE

DIRECTION OF FORMER SENIOR UN OFFICIAL WILLIAM CLARENCE.
SHATTUCK EXPLAINED THAT THE WORK OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
MONITORS IS COMPLEMENTARY TO THAT OF THE WAR CRIMES
TRIBUNAL. HOWEVER, THE MONITORS ARE NOT INVESTIGATORS AND
WILL SERVE INSTEAD TO MONITOR THE PRESENT SITUATION, BUILD
CONFIDENCE, AND IMPROVE THE SECURITY CLIMATE. BIZIMUNGU
SAID THAT THE GOR HAD ACCEPTED THE DEPLOYMENT AND ROLE OF
THE MONITORS, BUT REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO GET A START ON
INVESTIGATIONS AND EVIDENCE GATHERING. (COMMENT: REPORTS
OF MONITOR DEPLOYMENT PROBLEMS, SUCH AS SOME MONITORS
BEING TURNED BACK AT RPA CHECKPOINTS EN ROUTE TO THEIR
DESTINATIONS, HAVE RAISED CONCERNS. GOR HAS ACCEPTED
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DEPLOYMENT IN PRINCIPLE, BUT WE WILL NEED TO WATCH HOW
THIS PLAYS OUT IN PRACTICE. END COMMENT.)

16. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED ABOUT A DELAY IN THE UNSC
RESOLUTION REGARDING DETENTION BY THIRD COUNTRIES OF THOSE

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ACCUSED OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. IO/UNP OFFICER STANTON EXPLAINED THAT THE 180 DAY PROPOSED DETENTION PERIOD WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO SOME SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS. IT WAS AGREED FINALLY THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING THE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL. METHODS OF DETENTION WOULD THEN BE LINKED TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE TRIBUNAL. A/S SHATTUCK SAID THAT HIS MEETINGS WITH POTENTIAL "FRIENDS OF RWANDA" MEMBERS IN NEW YORK CONFIRMED THAT ASSESSMENT -- AFTER THE TRIBUNAL RESOLUTION IS PASSED ATTENTION CAN BE DIRECTED TOWARD DETAILS ABOUT DETENTION. IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO DELAY THE TRIBUNAL WHILE RESOLVING SUCH ISSUES.

17. PRM ACTING A/S SYKES EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT RWANDA WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS DEALING WITH PROTECTION OF REFUGEES. SYKES POINTED OUT THAT UNTIL A FINAL RESOLUTION TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS IS COMPLETE, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GOR TO SUPPORT THESE PRINCIPLES THAT WE ALL SHARE. BIZIMUNGU REASSERTED THAT THE GOR WANTS TRANSPARENCY, TRUTH, AND REINFORCED RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THE GOR HAS GIVEN GUARANTEES TO UNHCR THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR.

18. ON THE SUBJECT OF UNHCR, HOWEVER, BIZIMUNGU RAISED COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE METHODS OF UNHCR IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS. FIRST, HE EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE THAT UNHCR IS
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SERVING THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF ARMED FORCES OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT. SECOND, THE PRESIDENT IS UPSET BY THE PRESENCE OF "KILLERS" IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS WHO ARE DISCOURAGING THE POPULATION FROM RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES. BIZIMUNGU NOTED THAT MILITIA GROUPS HAVE STOPPED

REFUGEES WHO WERE TRYING TO REPATRIATE AND PREVENTED THEM FROM LEAVING THE CAMPS. THIRD, BIZIMUNGU CLAIMED THAT UNHCR IS AWARE THAT MILITIA HAVE STOLEN GOR VEHICLES, AND IS IN FACT RENTING THESE VEHICLES FROM THE MILITIA.

19. PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE MEETING AND ONCE AGAIN REASSURED DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THAT THE GOR IS COMMITTED TO THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE ARE, HE NOTED, DIFFICULTIES OUTSIDE OF THE CONTROL OF THE GOR. BIZIMUNGU PLEADED FOR THE USG TO HELP RWANDA EXIST "AS A NATION" AND PREVENT ANY RESUMPTION OF GENOCIDE. BENNET WELCOMED THE GOR'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS EVEN AS THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PROBLEMS EXIST. BENNET PROMISED THAT THE USG WILL REMAIN ENGAGED AND WILL

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PRAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF RWANDA'S FUTURE.

20. ACTION FOR GENEVA: MISSION SHOULD LOOK INTO REPORTS THAT UNHCR HAS "RENTED" GOR VEHICLES FROM HUTU MILITIA. DEPARTMENT REALIZES BIZIMUNGU'S OTHER CAMP SECURITY CONCERNS ARE SHARED BY THE UN. THE UPCOMING SYG REPORT ON KHAN'S MISSION SHOULD PROPOSE ACTION TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

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